



Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit: Preservation 911

January 24-26, 2014-Boulder and Larimer Counties

Addressing the need to raise awareness and understanding of the impact of large scale emergencies on historic properties, the Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit will convene in January 2014. The recent devastating Colorado floods and persistent threat of forest fires impact lives and property. Many of the areas affected boast historic properties important both for their role as community memory and identity as well as for the economic vitality generated by tourism.

The character of historic properties brings value to local residents and visitors, but face challenges when emergencies cause devastation and recovery efforts seem overwhelming. The Youth Summit will bring a group of Colorado middle and high school students to Boulder and Larimer counties to directly engage in issues involving historic properties and disaster recovery.

During the Summit participants will:

- Tour areas damaged by floods
- Meet with experts in preservation and community planning
- Interact with local, state and federal agency leaders and officials
- Review history and architectural styles of region
- Collect stories of local residents
- Learn about weather impacts in Colorado
- Examine alternatives for youth engagement in community rebuilding
- Undertake a service project to help communities
- Gain first-hand experience in response approaches to disasters
- Develop recommendations for involving youth in recovery efforts
- Share ideas for marketing historic communities for tourism
- Advocate for historic properties
- Draft social media and other communication tools for local communities
- Strategize about increasing youth involvement in preservation

Following the Summit, participants will be invited to share their experience, findings and recommendations with local, state and national leaders. Student leaders will be asked to



reconvene in February to participate in a statewide historic preservation conference, *Saving Places*, and also meet with state elected officials and federal agency leaders to exchange ideas.

The Youth Summit will be presented by the Youth Summit sponsors and state and local partners including: The State Historical Fund, a program of History Colorado, and Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Tourism Taskforce, the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other organizations.

More background on Youth Summits:

Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit

The Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit is a unique award-winning program that provides Colorado middle and high school students and their teachers interactive, goal-focused, results-oriented experiences to foster their knowledge of our nation's heritage, gain knowledge about the complexity of balancing sustainable use and historic preservation and cultivate life-long stewards of historic places.

Begun in 2007, nearly 20 Youth Summits have motivated over 1500 students in Summits held across Colorado-including Summits offered in SE Colorado and Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, SW Colorado with Mesa Verde and Canyons of the Ancients, NW Colorado at Dinosaur National Monument, central Colorado and the San Luis Valley and Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve and four summits in Denver with highlights including the creation of the Denver Story Trek™, work on interpretative plans for five historic sites, consulting the new Denver History Center and meeting with legislators and leaders in preservation, education and public lands. There is no other program like this in the country with a state-wide focus on involving youth in decision making on preservation.

What is a Youth Summit?

A Youth Summit is a focused gathering of middle and high school students and cooperating educators and mentors, brought together at an historic place to directly address current preservation challenges. Through multi-day field study programs or smaller one day activities, Youth Summits provide interactive, outcome-driven learning experiences and service opportunities to advance youth engagement and knowledge in history, archaeology, heritage tourism, conservation, and preservation.



Youth Summit Mission Statement

The Mission of the Youth Summits is to provide engaging, on-site, interactive learning experiences for students and educators which engage them in study of historic preservation, conservation, and heritage tourism issues with the primary goal of motivating them to become future stewards of historic communities, sites and land, shape policy at the local state and national level, and provide lasting impact on communities for generations to come.

Youth Summit Objectives

Youth Summits work to achieve five primary objectives:

1. Foster understanding of heritage, history, and historic places
2. Connect youth to places associated with diverse cultures and viewpoints
3. Involve students in historic preservation projects and service-learning projects which make a defined difference in the historic or cultural place
4. Expand tools to support educators' efforts in the classroom, while providing meaningful and relevant 21st century learning applications
5. Bolster local preservation and heritage tourism efforts of communities and historic sites
6. Gain youth perspectives on preservation and heritage tourism issues

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